

## **WASH**RAG

www.washarc.org



#### Field Day 2001: Almost Here!

At the May club meeting 19 people indicated an interest is this year's Field Day. I'll be asking for specific commitments at the June 12th meeting. I really want to get all who have not operated FD before (especially the new licensees) involved as both loggers and operators.

When: Saturday, June 23rd at 2:00 PM EDT

(1800 UTC) through

Sunday, June 24th at 5:00 PM EDT

(2100 UTC)

Since our club sets up equipment before the starting time, we are limited to 24 hours from the start of on air operations. Setup Time is Saturday starting at 10 AM.

Where: Mount Lebanon Park, Shelter #1 — same shelter as in 2000. Talk-in on the N3RNX/R Repeater, 146.955 MHz (131.8 PL)

Who: All club members are invited to participate in the setup, operation and tear down of the equipment. Money has been allocated for the food and drink. Carol, KB3GMN, is again in charge.

As the FD Chairman I am most concerned about 2 items:

- Volunteers to supply, borrow, hunt down or otherwise obtain Adequate Equipment in good working order,
- 2. Operator participation, especially overnight.

#### Equipment:

- Club Owned Transceiver for HF: ICOM 738
- 2. Club Owned Transceivers for VHF: none
- 3. Member Owned Transceivers for HF: TS440
- Member Owned Transceivers for VHF: need commitment at meeting
- Club Owned Antennas for HF: Butternut Vertical, G5RV dipole, Hex Beam

(WASH Field Day Continued on page 4)

### Dayton's 50 th: Hamvention 2001

Bargains galore, the return of rain, and bad poetry where the hallmarks of the WASH Contingent attending the 2001 Dayton Hamvention May 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

ARRL reports on their web site that "while not all reports are in," product sales were "brisk" and most vendors appeared quite happy with the results. Official attendance numbers have not been released, but they appear on par overall with the last few years, despite the Friday afternoon downpour.

Friday was a reminder of Hamventions past, when the last weekend of April meant anything from snow & cold to sunburn & 70's. The predicted "brief showers" translated into a heavy downpour that virtually drowned much of the flea market area as thousands of hams headed for the Arena or the tents for cover. But that also meant heavy discounts on Saturday and Sunday as the flea market vendors tried to make up for lost time.

Unlike most previous Hamventions, little new radio equipment was introduced. Kenwood announced a new multi-band HT that includes 222 MHz coverage, and sales of the new Yaesu FT-817 were high. And Ten-Tec debuted their

(Dayton 2001 Continued on page 6)

#### "Breezeshooter's" Page 5

#### Next Meeting: June 14 th, 2001

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, starting at 7:00 PM.

Field Day Chair Larry Comden K3VX will be going over FD operating techniaues and demonstrating logging software that we plan to use during the event.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3FFP/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

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Wireless Association of South Hills

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WASH FM Net 9:00 PM ET **Sunday Nights** on the

### **June 2001**

146.955 and 443.650 Repeaters	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NCS Schedule:						1 Elco RS Meeting	<b>2</b> RA Erie VE Test
• June 3 KB3FZU							WPA Hilltoppers VE Test NHARC Elmer Net
• June 10 K30L							
• June 17 K30L	3 Breezeshooter's	4	5	6 D-Day	7	8	9 ARRL VHF
• June 24 KQ3DX	Elwood City ARA Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net	Greater Pgh VHFS Meeting Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service	Butler Co ARA Meeting SHBP&M Meeting Skyview RS Meeting	Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co SKYWarn	WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting		Pittsburgh Antique RS Meeting Breezeshooters VE Test Tri-County CW VE Test
• July 1 WN3BOJ	WASH FM Net WASH Digital Net	2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARC Net	rs ARC Net North Hills ARC Net "A" ARC Net SATERN Net				NHARC Club Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call 2 Rivers Ham'n'Eggs
• WASH Digital			GPVHFS Swap'N'Shop				NHARC Elmer Net
Net, 9:30 PM Sunday Nights 28.105 MHz RTTY & PSK31	10 ARRL VHF QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net WASH FM Net WASH Digital Net	ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Bum of the Month Lunch Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARC Net	12 Foothills ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft.Venango Mike & Key Meeting Punssatawney Area ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap*N Shop	North Hills ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	14 Flag Day WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting	15 2 Rivers ARC Meeting	16 Kid's Day NHARC Elmer Net
LOOKING AHEAD:  • WASHFest	17 Father's Day EIk Co ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net WASH FM Net WASH Digital Net	18 Monessen ARC Meeting Steel City ARC VE Test Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARC Net	19 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap'N Shop	20 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	21 Summer Begins Greene Co ARC Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting	22	23 Field Day Nittany ARC Coffee Call NHARC Elmer Net
2002, February 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2002	24 Field Day  QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net  WASH FM Net  WASH Digital Net	25 Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple *A* ARC Net	26 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap'N'Shop	27  North Hills ARC Activity Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	28 WACOM Board Meeting	29	30 WASH Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net

#### WASH 2001 OFFICERS

#### THE LEGAL STUFF

#### **Executive Committee:**

President VP/Secretary

VP/Treasurer

And We Couldn't Do It Without:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager VF Team Liaison

Webmaster Quartermaster

N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers

FM Net (2 Meter & 70 cm)

WASHFest 2002 Co-Chairman (South Hills Hamfest)

Operating Events Chairman Field Day 2001 Chairman

Ways & Means Media Communications

Digital (10 Meter)

**Club-Affiliated Repeaters:** Mt. Lebanon N3RNX/R

Mt. Lebanon W3SRL/R Canonsburg N3FFP/R

Ron Notarius WN3VAW Paul Lusardi NØVLR Mark Stabryla N3RDV

Steve Lane W3SRL Paul Lusardi NØVLR Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL **Bob Sanford AA3FI** 

Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI

Bryan Beyer K3OL Mike Serowik N3BSQ Steve Lane W3SRL Bill Hill W3WH Bill Hill W3WH

Larry Comden K3VX Carol Danko KB3GMN Kevin DeRose N3KFD

146.955 -PL 131.8 442.550 + PL 131.8

PL 131.8

N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

443.650 +

The 10 Meter Digital N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet meets on 28.105 MHz at 9:30 PM ET following the conclusion of the FM net. (Frequency is +/- QRM) All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

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The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. was founded in 1993 as the original South Hills Amateur Radio Club, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the N3SH Amateur Radio Club. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way shape or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3FFP/R Repeater System for permitting the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

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#### WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

#### Next WASH VE Test July 19 th!

Our Next VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001**, at **7:00 PM**, at the *John McMillan Presbyterian Church*, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on 146.955 MHz. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL: Telephone (724)-746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of \$10.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Don't forget that ARRL dues are going up on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you're
thinking of
joining
renewing to
beat the rate
increase,
NOW is a
good time to
do it!

And if you join or renew through the club, we get something out of it—see Mark N3RDV for details.

#### April 29<sup>th</sup> WACOM Hamfest VE Test Session Results

We had four successful candidates at the April 29th VE Test Session, held during the WACOM hamfest.

According to the FCC ULS database, the following licenses were issued in early May:

Technician:

David M. Wagner KB3GOT Fred U. Moran Jr. KC8RIU

General:

Thomas D. Fox KA3NIY
Ralph McCullough WA3YFQ

VE's from both WASH and WACOM included:
Bill Hill W3WH

Bob McCloskey W3RJM Kevin DeRose N3KFD Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI Ron Notarius WN3VAW John Moninger WA3VKC Ed Salva W3VFA Jacque Gosselin N3ZEL

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who gave their time to run this test session. It's muchly appreciated!

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

The WASH Breakfast Gang met on the morning of May 26th for our monthly get-together, at Dietz;s Restaurant in the Caste Village Shops, Baptist at Grove. Present this Memorial Day weekend were WASH members K3VX, KB3CPI, KB3FNM, N3RNX, W3HND, W3WH, & WN3VAW. Topics covered Field Day, Breezeshooters, Dayton, and most anything else we could think of. For the first time, though, it was generally agreed that this would be a nice place to come back to, so we will do so again this month. Don't be left out of the good times! Remember, our next Club Breakfast will be Saturday, June 30th, at Dietz's Restaurant in the Caste Village Shops, Baptist Road at Grove Road. Hope you can make it!

Whatever happened to the group tickets for an upcoming Pirate game? No, it didn't get forgotten about. A combination of factors, including finding a good weekend game without a conflict (like a public service event or a hamfest) that tickets were available for, the need to buy at least 25 tickets, along with the increasingly fanunfriendly policies at PNC Park, have led us to postpone plans for a group trip for the time being. July 28th & 29th, August 25th & 26th, and September 22nd & 23rd are the best remaining dates to look at, if there's still enough interest — let WN3VAW know.

Who in the heck is THAT? Bob KB3EPC (ex KB3DSD) is now W3RWS, and as noted elsewhere, Mike WB5NLJ is now WE3U. Mike insists his call stands for "We Three Ugly," and who's going to argue with him? (just kidding Mike!)

**Summer** is almost upon us. Many other clubs tend to shut down until the Fall, but we've always managed to keep something going for those interested. What are you up for? Another Island trip, perhaps? Or possibly some activity in one of the upcoming VHF contests? Let Bill W3WH, who's our Operating Activities chair, know what you're up for. And don't forget that we traditionally have moved the August meeting to a weekend picnic for club members and their families. Where would you like to go this year? Let Bill know about, too.

The devil is in the details. You really appreciate proofreading when you see things like this. An out-of-state club that shall remain nameless was handing out flyers for their upcoming hamfest at Breezeshooters. Listed was location, directions, prizes, fees, VE exams, & so on, but one *little* detail was missing: The date. Oops.

We're almost famous... Picked up the June issue of CQ, and in WA3PZO's Public Service column, he gave a little write-up about the local 2 meter simplex contests held this year in Pittsburgh & Philadelphia. Bob gave a nice plug for the importance of "repeater independent" activity based on the contests. Just one thing. Now, it's not important that he didn't mention that we came up with the idea, as 2M simplex contests have been done before. But, ah, well, seems that he called us the <code>Washington</code> (not Wireless) Association of South Hills. Anyway, though January is 6 months off, don't forget that we will run the 'test again in 2002. If you have any suggestions for improvements, contact WN3VAW or N3ZNI.

Got something to say? We're always looking for material for the newsletter, so if there's something you'd like to write about, contact WN3VAW. You'd be amazed at how interested people will be in what you have to say! We hate to keep asking the regulars to be the only contributors... so give it some thought, please?

WASH 2001 Dues are PAST DUE! Don't put it off, renew your membership today!

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS

#### Minutes, May 10 th Meeting Paul Lusardi NØVLR, VP/Secretary WASH

The meeting was called to order at 19:06 by WN3VAW. There were 19 members and 2 guests present.

A moment of silence was observed for recent Silent Key's and other deserving persons.

Introductions were then made all around, as is our custom.

A motion was made to <u>accept the minutes</u> of the April meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Bill W3WH and seconded by Larry K3VX and carried. WN3VAW apologized for leaving the box of extra newsletters at home by accident.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Read and accepted.

Secretary (NØVLR): PA QSO Party Certificates arrived in the mail. VE Team (N3ZEL): Many WASH VE's helped out at WACOM Hamfest test session on April 29th. Next WASH exam July 19th.

Repeaters (W3SRL/N3RNX): 6 members helped move the 146.955 & 442.55 repeaters to their new location this morning. Some temporary problems that will be solved in the next few days

FM Net (K3OL): Thanks to all who've participated in the Sunday nets and all of the NCS's for a terrific job. June is open for NCS

Digital Net (NØVLR): Not much activity lately.

Public Service (N3RDV) UPMC City of Pittsburgh Marathon was a success, thanks to all hams for their help. Race for the Cure is on Mother's Day, MS Bike-a-thon June 9th & 10th, and Air shows will be coming up in July and August.

Contests: Field Day (K3VX): We should be running 3 stations using battery, including one station for various Digital modes. Mt. Lebanon Park, Pavillion #1, is the location again (same place as last year). A motion was made by Bob W3RJM to allocate up to \$300 for food expenses, seconded by Bob KB3EPC, and carried. Mark N3RDV has ordered 20 Field Day 2001 pins for club members

Newsletter (WN3VAW): No report.

President (WN3VAW): Club members at Dayton should monitor 146.955 simplex, 131.8 PL. Breezeshooter's Hamfest on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, club will be set up along fence by grandstand again. Club pot-luck picnic will be at 11:30 for club members and invited quests only.

Old Business: Steve W3SRL reminded club that as part of the repeater relocation, we need to provide a dual-band radio to the 911 Emergency Operations Center. He will look for one at Dayton.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order: Harold KB3CPI has back issues of QST available for anyone who'd like them. Paul NØVLR is looking for someone to help make signs for WASH for Field Day. N3KFD reports that Alan N3UML has an extra room at Dayton available to anyone who needs one as he can't make it.

Motion to adjourn made by Bill W3WH, seconded by Bryan K3OL and carried. Meeting adjourned at 20:08

<u>Presentation</u> by Paul NØVLR on digital modes followed.



For sale: 4 Season Tickets, Section 308, at PNC Park. Tickets available for all remaining Saturday home games, Labor Day, and selected Friday games. For more information, including dates available, call Mike Cord at 412-269-5803 between 9 AM & 4 PM or leave a message on his voice mail.

(WASH Field Day Continued from page 1)

- Club Owned Antennas for VHF: none
- Member Owned Antennas for HF: 3 Element 10 Meter Yaqi, Single and multi-band dipoles
- Member Owned Antennas for VHF: 4 Element 2 Meter Lightning Bolt Quad; need additional commitment(s) at meeting
- Logging Computers: need commitment for 1 more at meeting
- 10. PSK/RTTY Equipment: need commitment at meeting
- 11. Storage Batteries: need commitment for 2 more at meeting
- 12. Tools required for Setup and Teardown:

More about Field Day at the June WASH meeting with a demo of the logging software and good operating practice.

> 73, Larry Comden K3VX WASH Field Day 2001 Chairman

Mt. Lebanon Park is located behind Mt. Lebanon Jr./Sr. High School, off of Cedar Boulevard. From the Liberty Tunnel, take West Liberty Avenue/Washington Road (Business Route 19) to the intersection with Cochran Road (US Route 19). Left onto Cochran Road. Proceed north to Cedar Boulevard. Make a left onto Cedar. proceed about 1 mile, turn left into the park. From the Fort Pitt Tunnel, take Banksville Road/Beverly Road (Route 19) to Cochran Road. Left onto Cochran. Proceed to Cedar Boulevard & turn right at the light. Proceed about 1 mile, turn left into the park.

#### Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>



Please join us for the next WASH Breakfast! We're going to get together on the LAST Saturday of

every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, and just have a good time together!

We'll be rotating the location until we find one that suits most everyone. This month, we'll again be at Dietz's Restaurant, Baptist and Grove Roads in the Caste Village Shops. Start time is about 8 AM until whenever. Monitor 146.955 for talk-in or any last minute changes. All are welcome, WASH members or not, amateurs or not! Hope to see you there!

#### Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

				1	
AA3FI	KB3ERQ	N3RDV	N3YQY	WA3JPP	
AA3JS	KB3FNM	N3RHT	N3ZCG	WB3BPH	
K3BZW	KB3FQT	N3RNX	N3ZEG	WB3GTL	
K3LIE	KB3FZU	N3SBF	N3ZEH	WN3BOJ	
K3OL	KB3GMN	N3TBK	N3ZEL	WN3VAW	
K3VX	KB3GMO	N3TES	N3ZNI		
K3WR	KD3JV	N3UE	N4MIS	Dan Mohr	
KA3PPH	KE3XB	N3UIW	NP2JF	JoAnn Cottrill	
KA3TFB	KQ3DX	N3VEH	W3GEL	Marilyn Nizinski	
KA3TWI	NØPEU	N3VVL	W3HND	-	
KA3UPY	NØVLR	N3VWF	W3JAF	K3EED (SK)	
KA3WZO	NØWPV	N3WPT	W3RJM	N3KEH (SK)	
KB3ANH	N2QIV	N3XFE	W3SRL	N3OBD (SK)	
KB3CPI	N3BSQ	N3XI	W3VFA	W3ZLK (SK)	
KB3DCO	N3CCC	N3YPB	W3WH		
KB3DSB	N3CZZ				
KB3ECD	N3IDH		Through May		
KB3ENX	N3KFD	List complied by			
KB3EPC	N3MJQ	Mark Stabryla N3RDV			
KB3EPI	N3QMV	Vice President/Treasurer			

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#### 2001 Breezeshooter's Hamfest

It was a wonderful day for a March hamfest. Unfortunately, it took place the first Sunday in June! That summed up the feelings of a lot of amateurs attending this year's Breezeshooter's Hamfest at the Butler Farm Show Grounds at Roe Airport.

The crowd was clearly down this year, and it was attributed to two factors: the steady rain most of the day on Saturday, and the well below average temperature & threat of rain on Sunday. Those of you who remember getting sunburned by late morning at past hamfests would be amazed by the number of hams buying sweatshirts from Jeanne "The Hat Lady" Bey during the morning; and the morning seemed to get colder as the day progressed, up until about 11:30 - 12 noon.

On the positive side, the crowd remained steady as the day went on, as more than a few hams stopped by for just a look around; the threat of rain and the cold kept them from staying long, but they still came. Early indications from several of the Breezeshooter's officers and hamfest staff is that despite early concerns about losing a significant sum, the hamfest did OK. Maybe not great, but OK.

WASH was well represented by close to half the club membership, and we ended up with over 35 people, on and off, at the picnic or at least stopping by to say "hi!". So from that standpoint, the hamfest was a success. The only down note was that we were unable, after all, to get N3SH/3 on the air as not all of the pieces of the station made it up to Butler in time. We'll try again in September!

#### Short takes:

- Three WASH members took home major prizes. Congratulations to Bob w3RJM, 8th prize, IC-T81A quad band HT; Dave w3HND, 7th prize, IC-207 Dual Band; and Ed N3ZNI, 6th prize, IC-2800H Dual Band. There were also reports of another club member who won an hourly prize after he left & was unable to claim it!
- It sure looked like Mike, but that hat didn't say WB5NLJ. After 25 years, Mike traded up to wesu, deciding that WB5NLJ/3/ GRE/QRP was too long to send during the PA QSO Party.
- Brett N3FFP sounded downcast after the VE session. When asked how he did, he reported that he was upset because he missed 3 questions on the Extra exam. Congratulations anyway Brett!
- Congratulations to KX2A for making DXCC Honor Roll. Jan was unable to join us at the picnic, as he is now a vegetarian. Coincidence?
- Thanks again to everyone who brought something to the picnic. We ended up with an excess of snacks, soda, and paper goods. Not to worry... everything left over will be used at Field Day!



Meeting of the minds, or "Now how do you program this thing again? (L to R KB3FNM, N3SBF, W3RJM, W3WH) [W3HND Photo]



Weather or not, it's time to hunt for bargains!





A Happy Ed N3ZNI & his new bargain 30 foot collapsible mast (and all the computers you could want there in the background, too boot!)

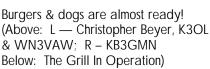
[WN3VAW photo]

Now THAT was a cake... no, it wasn't 3 years old! Thanks W3HND!

[WN3VAW Photo]







[W3HND Photos]





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(Dayton 2001 Continued from page 1)

the new Model 526 "6N2" VHF multi mode transceiver that was previewed last year. But one of the many topics of discussion was the pre-Hamvention announcement by Kachina that they were leaving the Amateur Radio and HF Communications markets.

This year, many WASH members again stayed at the University of Dayton dorms, this time in the Lawnview Apartments building. This is a brand new building full of two bedroom suites including a kichennette that puts many motels to shame. About the only drawbacks were (shades of PennDOT) road construction this year, and that the University is south of downtown Dayton, which subjected some of us to rush hour traffic on Friday and "Riverfest" traffic on Saturday. This year seven of us (N3KFD, W3SRL, N3BSQ, W3WH, KA3UPY, KQ3DX & WN3VAW) shared two suites (cost was less than \$25 per night per person) and plan to return there next year, so if you might be interested, let KQ3DX know so that we can reserve enough space for next year.

Other WASH members seen or heard at Hamvention included Dave N3IDH, Bob W3RWS, Shirley KB3GMP, Frank KB3FZU, and Lori KB3GMU.

Oh, and about that poetry... if you want a good steak for dinner, the unusual Golden Ox about a mile from UofD was great. But some of the other menu items weren't quite as good, and the placemats contained the bad poetry of the owner, "Duke," an ex-professional boxer who once married a woman with 6 other husbands... don't ask.

All in all, everyone had a great time and are looking forward to next year!





Ten Tec's new Model 526 VHF rig was on display and quite popular with the crowd (ARRL photo)



Inside the HARA Arena (KQ3DX Photo)

I am sorry to report to you that effective 5/24/2001, Kachina Communications, Inc. will discontinue production of all HF radio products, including the 505DSP and its related accessories. As you may know, many of the top management of Kachina are hams, so this has not been an easy decision to make. However, given the reduced worldwide demand for amateur radio in general, and HF radio in particular, it seems the only sensible choice for us to make.

From discussions with some of the top contacts in our industry over the last several years, it has become obvious that most companies manufacturing amateur radio products these days (including the top Japanese brands) do so out of a labor of love, supporting the losses from other more-profitable ventures. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources of a Kenwood or Yaesu, and simply cannot afford to support an unprofitable product line indefinitely.

Kachina Communications, Inc. will remain in business in Arizona, as we have done for the past 25 years. In future we will concentrate on our Swift Wireless line of broadband wireless Internet products and services. Swift Wireless operates a wireless Internet service in several Arizona communities and provides turn-key services to other ISPs throughout the Southwest. We will continue to provide service and spares for all Kachina HF radio products for the forseeable future, and will honor all factory warranties through the duration of the warranty period.

The amateur radio products remaining in our inventory will be made available through our web side at clearance prices, so if you are looking for a bargain, check there (http://kachina-az.com) beginning May 25<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to thank all of those who purchased the 505DSP over the last several years. I am sorry that we could not continue to manufacture the 505DSP, but we will do our best to continue to provide service to you in the future. I would also like thank Sherman Leifer of M&S Computers, who was a big supporter of the 505DSP for a number of years, and singlehandedly sold more 505DSP than all the HRO and AES outlets combined. Sherman and I do not always see eye-to-eye on everything, but his efforts and abilities kept the 505DSP alive for a lot longer than it might have otherwise been.

Thanks and best regards, Cameron Earnshaw, Vice President, Kachina Communications, Inc.



Outside in the Flea Market (KQ3DX Photos)



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#### Adventures in Repeater Moves

Well Gang, it has been a long time in coming, but the much anticipated repeater move has been completed. The 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 442.550(-) W3SRL/R machines were recently relocated about four blocks south on Washington Road to their new home on top of Washington Square. Thanks to an agreement reached with the South Hills Regional 9-1-1 center, we now have that space rent-free as long as the repeaters remain open and available for emergency preparedness uses.

On Thursday morning May 10th Pete, N3RNX and I were joined by a small work party consisting of Bob W3RJS, Dick N3QMV, Frank KB3FZU, Ron WN3VAW and a pair of technicians from Crown Communications. The Crown guys began installing the hefty mast-support brackets on the top of the elevator penthouse and our gang trekked up to the penthouse on top of Pendale to dismantle the 2-meter machine. We carted the cabinets up to the rooftop and began removing each of the components one by one and hefting them up the vertical ladder to the radio room. (The 440 machine was already up there, having been moved a few weeks earlier when the manpower was available.) The Crown guys installed the 'new' Diamond X-500HNA that was donated by Bob, AA3FI and then we began racking everything into the 6-foot rack provided for us.

Everything went off without a hitch, until we went to fire up the 2-meter machine. Very little RF out; It appeared that the power amp was dead. More checking, and it was indeed dead. Only 250 mw at the antenna feed, which is the output of the exciter only. Hmm. We moved to the UHF machine and it worked perfectly. Seems that the 'bargain' Larsen diplexer that I bought at a hamfest a year or more ago had a dead short in the 2m port. No problem. I had a spare at home, but the amp on 2m was still dead as a doorknob. The machine lumbered along at a quarter of a watt for more than a week. Dayton was coming, I told myself.

Well, I spent most of Friday at the Dayton Hamfest scouring for a replacement amp. Lots of amateur-grade units, and lots of repeater-grade units in UHF. 150-174 MHz units were also a dime a dozen, but no 136-150 MHz ones to be found. Saturday brought promise though. The skies cleared up mostly, and the day was beautiful. To make a nice day perfect, a commercial dealer in one of the big tents clued me in on a guy in the flea market that had a 'bunch of ancient ham band Motorola crap' just two rows away. I thanked him, and high-tailed it over there.

Sure enough, a guy from Indiana was just setting up, and he had a table full of Micor repeater parts. Another guy was fondling the amp I HAD TO HAVE and decided to ask his partner about it. It never hit the table again. Some discussion and haggling led to me plunking down \$100 for a 60w continuous-duty amp that was otherwise identical to the 'dead' one at home. I mentioned this to the seller and he casually mentioned that "You know, the UHF and VHF amps wire up exactly opposite each other." I tried not to show my ignorance and scurried away before he changed his mind on the price. Hot damn, we're in business again!

Well, on returning to Pittsburgh, Pete and I went back up to the site and discovered that the guy was right. Switching the polarity on the control circuit 'fixed' the amp. Pete tweaked it up to spec and it played perfectly. So now we have a spare 2m amp on the shelf along with a spare amp for the 440 machine. Oh well. You can never have too many spare repeater parts! (Or is that radios???)

The new site is within a few feet of the old one in height; It is difficult to determine just exactly how much height we actually gained but it is

Steve Lane W3SRL

safe to say we are just slightly higher at the new site than at the old one. The best estimate I can give is that the antenna is somewhere around 1370 feet in elevation.

The added height not withstanding, the single biggest reason that we seem to have increased coverage area now is the fact that the receivers are no longer being desensitized by the 1500+ watt (ERP) 900 MHz paging transmitter that was co-located with us at Pendale Towers. They can hear now! Signal reports have been mostly favorable, with many old dead-zones being improved and in some cases the talk-in is significantly improved. Give them both a try! I'd like to give my thanks to the entire crew

I'd like to give my thanks to the entire crew that helped out the morning of the move, to Mike McGrady of the South Hills Regional 9-1-1 center for allowing us to use his repeater site and to Pete, N3RNX for his technical expertise to keep it all humming along. Catch you on the repeaters!

**Autopatch?** With the recent repeater relocations, the inevitable questions arose once again. "Do you guys plan on putting autopatch on the repeaters? Well, much of that depends on you, the users.

Unlike the old repeater site, the new site has phone lines up there already. Its entirely possible to get another line up there on the existing wiring. The remaining question is simple. Are you, the users willing to support this financially? While the expenses to run this are not horrible, I simply can't afford to do it for free.

I would envision that we would need to have 15 to 20 users willing to commit to an annual subscription fee of about fifteen bucks to make this happen. After that commitment occurs, we would need to find out where they would want to call and make sure that <a href="mailto:theta: buffer style="mailto:theta: buffer style:"buffer style="mailto:theta: buffer style:"buffer style="mailto:theta: buffer style:"buffer style:"buf

If you would be willing to contribute to help support an autopatch on the 146.955 and/or the 442.550 systems, please drop me an email at w3srl@yahoo.com

Dayton was coming, I told myself...

A dealer clued me in on a guy in the flea market —

The amp I had to have was being fondled by another guy — he hesitated, and it never hit the table again

Heard about the two antennas that got married? The wedding wasn't much, but the reception was great!

— N7YW

#### DX Short Takes

Please note that no foreign amateur radio operators are allowed to operate from VU4. Just the sheer number of foreigners attempting to put VU4 on the air is making the authorities say NO.

We have just about succeeded, after two years of work, in the government asking for suggestions in making certain amendments to the AMATEUR RADIO rules in India. So maybe something may come through. But, don't press for the VU4, since right now even citizens of India are not allowed to carry radios there.

— Nat VU2NTA

"Good DX Info (DX Alert Issues) are available courtesy of John, K1XN@golist.net at: http://www.golist.net/dxalert.html. Check for new issues every 10 - 14 days.

This is something he is doing (free) for fellow DX'ers. No Issues (themselves) should be put on any reflector per his request."

Just another tool in an ever increasing arsenal of things to help work the new ones.

Thanks John...

- Steve KF2TI

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend will take place from 0001 UTC on Saturday 18 August until 2359 UTC on Sunday 19 August 2001. Already over 100 stations have confirmed their participation from either a lighthouse, lightship or maritime beacon.

You can find the list of stations at www.vk2ce.com/ ILLW/2001

Have a look and see if your station is mentioned and the details are correct. If there are any errors please notify me at gm4suc@compuserve.com or if you have any questions. If you are still seeking a site, you MUST be at or adjacent, could you let me know your details as soon as they are finalised. So come August, with some good propogation, we will have a fun weekend.

- Mike GM4SUC

You're on your way to being an OT if you have a box of tubes you'll "get around to checking one of these days."

You're almost there if you have a tube checker.

And you are an OT if you remember what JAN on a tube stands for .

— AE7G

#### DX News Briefs

A "United Team" of OH & JA amateurs plan to activate Market Reef during the time of the IARU test. Expect **ojøu** to be QRV during the test with 3 stations, 160 through 6 meters, on SSB, CW,



RTTY and possibly SSTV. Outside of the contest, the ops will sign ojø/ home call. QSL ojøu via JP1NWZ, all others via their home call. For more information email jh4rhf@arrl.net — OE1ZK/JH4RHF

LX1NO & LX2LX will be QRV on the US West Coast June  $9^{th} - 30^{th}$  under their US calls, KM6RY & AB7TL. QSL both only via LX1NO, not via the US address or bureau for either call: "Beware! Both of us are not members of the respective call area bureau!" If you do not follow the instructions, you will not get a QSL card — LX1NO

#### The Sir Francis Drake Report:

If you worked "**3W7CW**" on May 19<sup>th</sup> on 17 meters, you worked Slim. The real 3W7CW is QRT as he relocates from Hanoi to Saigon & will be QRV as **3W5CW** in the fall — SP5UAF

Another pirate was "**vu4a**" who stated his QSL manager is VU2PTT. Prasad has no association with that station, asks that no one send him any QSL requests for it, and assures all that any VU4 or VU7 operation will be well publicized in advance! — VU2PTT

#### QSL Routes:

3V8BB (CQ WPX CQ 2001 ONLY) via YT1AD — W3UR TI9CF via TI2CF — W2GI VYØXYL via VE7YL —

EX3A via EZ8CW — W2GI OJØU via JP1NWZ — JH4RHF OHØB via OH1BV — OH2BH VYØXYL VIA VETYL — DL1SBF XA5T VIA N5AU — DL1SBF YA5MM VIA EY8MM — RA3DNC EN1MKN VIA UX7MA — UX7MA

**WHØV** reports that he is behind in his QSL'ing because he has been "suffering from high blood pressure" lately. However, try emailing a polite note to him at <a href="whov@gtepacifica.net">whov@gtepacifica.net</a> as several amateurs have found that a way to get their card returned. Allow about 10 days for USPS mail from the Mariana Islands to arrive via regular US Mail. Do not QSL via the US Zero bureau, cards for Jun have been piling up there unclaimed, and there is no bureau at present serving the Marianas — WHØV, AKØA, WN3VAW

Need Labrador? Look for **VO2/K2FRD** or **K2FRD/VO2**, QRV June 6<sup>th</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>, primarily SSB on 10, 12, 15, 17 20 & 40 meters, and 30 Meter CW. QSL via K2FRD — K2FRD

K4JZ will be QRV as **FP/K4JZ** June 14 – 18, 40 through 10 meters. This will be a "1 man" operation. QSL via K4JZ with SASE — K4JZ

Congratulations to Jan **KX2A**, formerly of Wexford and now of Mt. Morris PA in Greene County, for achieving DXCC Honor Roll.

"Direct received QSLs from the **HI9/DJ7ZG** & **HI9.DL7AFS** Dxpedition, March 2001, have been sent out. We made 16500 QSOs. QSLs for ZB2 & EA9, April/May 2001, are now in the print.W e made 13300 QSOs and we are really surprised, how often we got heard, that this is a 'new one'. All QSLs via DL7AFS" — DJ7ZG

"We setup a QSL Info Database and now has an English page, http://www.hellocq.net/qrz/index\_e.php, now over 3000 records in database and mostly active Chinese station information can be searched, the main result of information is Chinese and some include a English format address." — BD7NQ

A team of 5 JA hams will activate Malawi June 6<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup>: **7Q7YL, 7Q7CW, 7Q7DU & 7Q7EN**, all via JG6BKB, and **7Q7CW** via JA2LZF. 7Q7YL will be QRV there for two years — OZ6OM

Thanks to the NJDXA *DX Reflector*, 425 *DX News*, *OPDX News*, & *ARRL DX Bulletins* for our *DX News* information. Thanks also to W3UR/*The Daily DX* for confirmations & additional information.

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#### ARRL Seeks FCC Probe

ARRL Bulletin #20 courtesy American Radio Relay League

The ARRL has asked the FCC to investigate and "take appropriate action" against several companies it alleges have been marketing so-called "long-range cordless telephones" via the Internet. The ARRL took the action in the wake of an interference complaint and numerous reports from the amateur community about sales of the devices, some operating on amateur VHF and UHF frequencies.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said the League was seeking the FCC probe because the apparently uncertificated devices operate on amateur bands and are capable of interfering with amateur communication. He also noted that the devices are not likely to meet maximum permissible exposure levels for RF.

"ARRL has not been able to locate any FCC certification for these devices and, based on the advertised frequency bands and ranges, it is believed that none of these devices could be certificated, or legally marketed or sold, under FCC rules," Imlay wrote.

Imlay said the ARRL also is looking into the marketing of products such as 434 MHz video surveillance equipment and other "apparently noncertificated devices" that use amateur frequencies but are being marketed in the US to non-amateurs.

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, said he's received at least one report of actual harmful interference from a long-range cordless telephone to amateur communication. The amateur reporting it tracked the telephone to the home of a neighbor, who said he'd bought the device on eBay.

Hare said some long-range devices are legally certificated to operate on the 900 MHz or 2450 MHz Part 15 bands. "These legal devices are only an issue if they cause actual harmful interference to the Amateur Service," he said. Hare requests reports of unlicensed devices causing actual harmful interference to Amateur Radio operation. Reports may be sent to rfi@arrl.org.

Kids of all ages are invited to experience Amateur Radio during Kids Day, June 16th, 1800Z to 2400Z. Last year more than 1000 kids took part in the event, now sponsored by the ARRL. There's no limit on operating time. Call "CQ Kid's Day," and the suggested exchange is name, age, location, and favorite color. You can re-work the same station if the operator has changed. More information is available on the ARRL web site, www.arrl.org

#### FYI Networks

#### For Your Information needs

FYI Networks, an Internet Service Provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of WASH their Basic Internet account for only \$18/month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet & FTP access, and in some areas Toll-Free 500 Area Code service. Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI-4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. You must mention that you are a member of the Wireless Association of South Hills to get the discount rate.

Many thanks to FYI Networks for making this special offer available to us for the past three years!

#### **FCC News**

ARRL Web Extra courtesy American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, May 30th, 2001 — The FCC has set aside a recent license grant to a Florida man and issued a short-term grant in the case of an Illinois amateur. The two cases are among several recent FCC enforcement actions.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said the Commission has set aside the Technician license of Joseph E. Mattern, KG4NGG, of Orlando. A former Tech Plus licensee and the subject of past

FCC enforcement attention, Mattern was relicensed May 3<sup>rd</sup>. "He was only back on the air for a few days before complaints started coming in, including one alleging use of a false call sign," Hollingsworth told ARRL. "He also was asked by the control operator to stay off several repeaters in the Orlando area." The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside his latest Amateur Service grant on May 15.

Last August the FCC wrote Mattern (then WW4WJD) citing allegations that the licensee had been using repeaters in his area to solicit traffic reports for his employer — a company that markets the reports. Hollingsworth said at the time that evidence before the FCC alleged that Mattern had been requested to stop operating on certain repeaters but had refused to do so. The FCC also cited evidence alleging that Mattern may have used area repeaters to discuss business dealings regarding computer equipment and that he may have indirectly threatened area Official Observers.

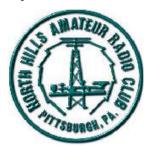
In September the FCC required Mattern to retake the Technician Plus exam. Mattern appeared for retesting but failed both elements, and the FCC canceled his license. Mattern subsequently retested for the Technician ticket and passed. When the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau granted Mattern's application and issued him a new call sign, KC4NGG, Hollingsworth reminded him that he was expected to comply with requests from repeater licensees or control operators to refrain from use of their repeaters and to avoid using ham radio for business purposes.

In a May 16 letter to Mattern, Hollingsworth said Mattern's Technician application now reverts to pending status. He said the latest complaints have been referred to the Enforcement Bureau for evaluation. "I'm looking at the complaints now," Hollingsworth told ARRL. He said he expected to address the matter within a few days. Hollingsworth has reminded Mattern that he had no authority to operate radio transmitting equipment.

In an unrelated action, the FCC has issued a short-term license grant to General licensee Reyes Lugo, KB9YDM, of Chicago. Like Mattern, Lugo — who once held an Extra class ticket, NP3N — has a track record with the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Last summer, he was requested to retake the Extra exam but passed only the Morse code element and his license was canceled.

Lugo subsequently retested for Technician and General and was granted KB9YDM. The FCC set aside those grants while it investigated complaints it had received about Lugo's radio operations as NP3N and KB9YDM. The Commission said those allegations had "raised questions" about Lugo's qualifications to hold an amateur license.

Hollingsworth informed Lugo on May 10 that the FCC was granting his General application for a one-year period. Violations could result in a fine and a revocation and suspension hearing.



#### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual North Hills ARC Hamfest Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Northland Public Library 300 Cumberland Road, Wexford PA



Free Admission — Free Parking

Paved Tailgating! First Space Free, Additional Spaces \$5 Each Handicapped Accessible

A Real Old Fashioned Hamfest

#### Talk-in on the W3EXW/R 147.090 Repeater North Hills ARC Club Repeater Main Prizes (need not be present to win):

1st IC-706MKIIG HF, 6M, 2M, 70cm Mobile 2nd IC-T7H Dual Band Hand Held

Plus Hourly Prizes (must be present to win Hourly Prizes)

For More Information on the Hamfest, Please Contact Milt Moratis W3XX at mmoratis@juno.com or (412) 364-0639

Or visit the NHARC Web Site, www.nharc.pgh.pa.us



#### Butler Hamfest & Computer Show WPA ARRL Section Convetion Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM Butler Farm Show Grounds at Roe Airport



#### Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

\$5 Donation for Admission — Includes All Prizes, Children Under 12 FREE

Free Parking — Room for 2500 Cars

Overnight Campers \$10 — Handicapped Accessible

Outside Flea Market \$5.00 Per Vehicle/set-up

Indoor Flea Market — Vendor's Space \$15.00 per 8 Foot Table

To Reserve Indoor Tables Contact Kevin Berry KF4RMA, 380 Three Degree Road, Renfrew, PA 16053

Telephone (724) 586-1182 E-Mail KF4RMA@arrl.net

Talk-in on the W3UDX/R 147.360 Repeater Mobile Check-In until Noon on 146.52 Simplex

#### Main Prizes — Drawn at 4:00 PM (need not be present to win):

1st Yaesu FT-817 5 Watts HF, 6M, 2M, 70cm SSB/AM/FM
2nd Alinco DX-70TH Compact HF & 6 Meters Mobile Transceiver

3rd IC-718 HF Transceiver / SW Receiver

4th IC-2800H 50 W 2M / 35W 70cm Dual Band Receiver w/9600Baud

5th IC-T7H 6 W 2M / 70cm Hand Held

Special Events: ARRL Representatives from Headquarters, Atlantic Division, Western PA Section and ARES/RACES

QSL Card Checking at the Hamfest for DXCC, WAS, VHF & UHF Awards

Forums on a wide range of Amateur Radio Topics

Hamfest Coordinator Gerald Wetzel W3DMB, 784 Mercer Road, Butler PA 16001 (724) 282-6777 www.qsl.net/w3udx



#### WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.



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	I would like to join WASH!. I am interes	sted in the following t	ype of membership:	☐ New Members	ship   Membership Renewal
	(check quarter	□ 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	□ 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	☐ 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	☐ 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
	☐ (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
	$\Box$ (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
	☐ (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
□ (F	FM1) Family Membership (F1 or F2 or A1 dues x 20%	x No. of household fa	amily members): \$		
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☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector ☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List [If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]		Date:			
Signatı	ure:		Amount Enclosed:	\$	

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.

The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.

Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

C/O Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer

1120 McKnight Drive

Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

## Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company" Embroidered Shirts and Hats

Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost
				Sub-Total	
				6 % Sales Tax	
				Total Enclosed	

<u>Available</u>	Cost (S M L XL)	Cost (2X 3X 4X
Golf Shirts	\$20.00	\$22.00
Rugby Shirts	\$20.00	\$20.00
Light Jackets	tba	tba
Lined Jackets	tba	tba
Hats	\$10.00	\$10.00

Club logo is not currently available on the hats due to size limitations. Contact TLC Embroidery for more information.

Prices, availability & available colors subject to change without notice.

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

Make checks payable to Sharon Cox Mail to: The TLC Embroidery Company 366 Dry Ridge Road West Alexander, PA 15376

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

## www.washarc.org



 Field Day is Almost Here — K3VX needs your input!

Inside This Issue:

How'd WASH Members Do at the (brrrr!) Breezeshooter's Hamfest? Find Out about Dayton Hamvention, too!

Kid's Day is Coming!

The *WASH*Rag

WASH FIELD DAY 2001

JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>
MOUNT LEBANON PARK,

HOPE TO SEE YOU

THERE!

MOUNT LEBANON PA

Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor

All that and more... waiting for you, right North Hills ARC & Butler Hamfests!

inside these pages...

# BUSY SPENDING NØVLR'S MONEY...

Kevin N3KFD, Bill W3WH, Ron WN3VAW & Dave N3IDH stop & pose at Hamvention 2001. Photo ©Copyright 2001 Greg Babin KQ3DX



## Breezeshooter's Hamfest... BRAVING THE COLD AT THE

Rich N3SBF's back, Bill W3WH, Jeff W3JAF, Hank KB3FNM's coffee cup.

Photo ©Copyright 2001 Dave Imhoff W3HND

